



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CAR SALESMEN INDICTED FOR MISUSING A CUSTOMER'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on March 19, 2003, a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned an indictment against **ANTHONY COLE MATTHEWS**, DOB 12/31/63, of Phoenix, Arizona, for misusing the Social Security account numbers of other individuals.

The indictment alleges that **MATTHEWS** used two different Social Security Account Numbers issued to other individuals to apply for an auto loan, an apartment lease, and employment at two different car dealership in the Phoenix area, **Bill Heard Chevrolet** in Scottsdale and **Chapman Chevrolet** in Tempe. **MATTHEWS** was charged earlier this month in a criminal complaint.

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The affidavit of probable cause supporting the complaint against MATTHEWS alleged that MATTHEWS was employed at a Scottsdale car dealership when he misappropriated and used the Social Security account number of an individual who had purchased a car from the Tucson office of the same dealership. According to the complaint, MATTHEWS used that individual's Social Security number as his own when purchasing a used BMW 328 I for approximately \$28,000. MATTHEWS used another individual's Social Security number as his own, according to the complaint, when leasing a townhouse and applying for employment at the Scottsdale car dealership.

The criminal complaint charges MATTHEWS with violating Title 42 of the United States Code, Section 408(a)(7)(B).

A conviction for that offense carries a maximum penalty of five year(s), a \$250,000 fine or both.

An complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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The investigation preceding the complaint was conducted by the United States Secret Service, the Office of the Inspector General, and the Social Security Administration.

The prosecution is being handled by Daniel R. Drake, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-287

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